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Slovakia

Biotechnology

Slovakia's Biosafety Framework 2004

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Report Highlights:

The Slovak Republic ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in November 2003. Since January 2003, Slovakia has participated in the UNEP/GEF (United Nations Environmental Program / Global Environmental Fund) Project of the National Biosafety Framework. This project started in June 2001 and was designed to assist 100 countries set up national frameworks for managing living modified organisms and meet the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol. In May 2004, Slovakia began developing a modern Control and Monitoring System for GMOs that includes an inspection system, equipment, and monitoring plans.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Slovakia's National Biosafety Framework

The Slovak Republic ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in November 2003 and adopted legislation regarding the safe use of biotechnologies and GMOs, their release into the environment, and biodiversity protection shortly thereafter. After the Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified, the Slovak Republic committed itself to developing Clearing-House Mechanism.

Since January 2003, Slovakia participated in UNEP/GEF (United Nations Environmental Program / Global Environmental Fund) Project of the National Biosafety Framework. This project started in June 2001 and was designed to help up to 100 participating countries to set up their national framework for the management of living modified organisms, allowing them to meet the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol.

In May 2004, Slovakia began developing a modern Control and Monitoring System for GMOs that includes an inspection system, equipment, and monitoring plans.

Background Information:

There are several institutions in Slovakia responsible for creating national policy on biosafety and the relevant legislation. Ministry of the Environment (MoE) of the Slovak Republic prepared the main Act No. 151/2002 Coll. on use of genetically modified organisms and biotechnologies (Act on GMOs). This act came into force as of April 1st 2002. Implementing regulation Decree No. 252/2002 Coll. came into force as of June 1st 2002. Transition period related to the enforcement of the act ended on April 1st 2004.

In accordance with the Act on GMOs, the Slovak Biosafety Committee (SBC) was established as an advisory body to the MoE. Members of the SBC are representatives from Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Education, scientists and representatives of NGOs and business sector.

The body of state supervision over use of genetic technologies and GMOs is the Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment (SIE). The SIE is mainly responsible for the inspection of contained use of GMOs taking part in both, research and diagnostic laboratories, as well as on experimental plots. Each producer and first level national importer of GMO must obtain permission from the MoE. SIE may impose a fine up to approximately EUR 120 000 for example for handling GMOs or placing them on the market without notification or without a permit.

Responsibilities for applications of GMO in food, seeds, varieties and feedstuffs are divided between the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. Legislation covering a wide range of application of GMO is as follows:

Food Legislation

- Act No. 23/2003 Coll. amending Act 159/1995 Coll. on food. Use of GMOs in food requires approval by the Ministry of Health.
- Food Codex, Decree 1865/2001-100, §142a on obligatory labeling foods containing GMO accordingly to EU legislation. Responsible institutions: Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture

Seeds and Plant Varieties Legislation

- Act No. 470/2002 Coll. on varieties and seeds. Responsible institution: Ministry of Agriculture

Feedstuffs Legislation

- Act No. 184/93 Coll. on feedstuffs (with three ordinances from January 2002 on used ingredients; on technical equipment and special nutritional value indicators; on use of additives). Responsible institution: Ministry of Agriculture

Related Legislation

- Act No. 11/1992 Coll. on the environment. Environmental protection.
- Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on the nature and country protection
- Act No. 237/2002 Coll. on the trade with wild animals and plants (CITES)
- Act No. 215/2001 Coll. on the protection on genetic resources of plants aimed for the nutrition and agriculture
- Act No. 415/2002 Coll. which amends Act No. 224/98 Coll on organic farming
- Act No. 471/2001 Coll. which amends Act No. 285/95 Coll. on phytosanitary care
- Act No. 23/2003 Coll. which amends Act No. 159/1995 Coll. on food
- Act No. 514/2002 Coll. which amends Act No. 272/1994 Coll. on the protection of human health
- Act No. 367/2001 Coll. on the safety and protection of human health at the workplace
- Governmental Decree No. 47/2002 Coll. on the health protection while working with biological factors

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